

that a medical man ought to be considerably biased against recommending it (and this, I think, would be an overstatement), it would not follow that the operation ought to be banned by Act of Parliament. Parliament is not a kind of superlatively wise gynaecologist. The official attitude towards abortion is not the result of medical reasoning; it is the consequence of a particular theological opinion, which one can perhaps still detect underneath Mr. Brewer's highly emotional attitude to this question.

This correspondence is now closed.

EDITOR

INHERITANCE OF INTELLIGENCE

To the Editor, The Eugenics Review

Sir,—Considering the extreme importance of the inheritance of intelligence there seems to be a striking lack of data comparing intelligence quotients of children with those of their own parents. Burt¹ classified intelligence of children and of parents according to eight occupational groups. Thomson² estimated the average I.Q. of the parents from those of the children, and stressed that "Actual measurement of two successive generations is desirable, indeed essential, and I would urge all who are in a position to facilitate such an experiment, or to contribute towards carrying it out, to do so". Many parents might resent taking I.Q. tests and much expense would be involved.

There are several groups of parents who might be keen to have such tests carried out. They include the Fellows and Members of The Eugenics Society, the members of the dental, medical and veterinary professions, and the members of the staff of universities and other educational bodies. Most of these people might be willing to pay to have the tests carried out,

or to organize group tests among themselves and those of their children who have left school. Schools would presumably supply the I.Q. of the children at school.

Similar instructive comparisons could be made of the I.Q. of occupants of H.M. Prisons, and those of their wives, with those of their children. Would some prisoners be able to help organize their tests?

The data might elucidate (a) the relationship of the parental I.Q. to those of their children, (b) whether the children's I.Q. were more related to their parents' I.Q., rather than to family size, (c) any effect on I.Q. of a child's order in the family.

Nisbet³ discusses the problem of deaf children showing retardation in mental development and even in their performances in non-verbal tests of intelligence.

Cases of inherited deafness at birth may be found amongst dalmatian dogs, white bull terriers and white cats. As far as I am aware, such cases do not show less than normal intelligence. From analogy it seems unlikely that deafness in children might be associated with any lack of innate intelligence.

Would deaf children take longer than normal children to learn, by imitating mimes, such techniques as billiards, dancing, gymnastics, climbing, cycling, swimming, golf and tennis?

IAN MACADAM
M.R.C.V.S., Ph.D.

*c/o Federal Department of
Veterinary Research,
P.O. Vom, Northern Nigeria*

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